

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 DHA-05

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O 140935Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9196

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH BRAND FOURIE ON OCT 13, HE INQUIRED WHEN THE CONTACT GROUP MIGHT WISH TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE SAG. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND TO HIS QUESTION, HE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND PIK BOTHA HAD SEVERAL TRIPS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND IN ANOTHER WEEK BOTH BOTHA AND THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE FINALIZING THEIR SCHEDULE FOR THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THUS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT THE CG HAD IN MIND ON FUTURE MEETINGS.

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2. I TOLD HIM THAT THE CG HAD BEEN BRIEFING VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES IN NEW YORK DURING THE PAST 10 DAYS AND WOULD BEGIN A SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WITH SWAPO STARTING ON OCTOBER 14. THE CG HAD THE SAG WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND I WOULD THINK A RESPONSE MIGHT COME QUITE QUICKLY, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. IN ANY EVENT, I TOLD HIM THAT

I WOULD PASS ALONG HIS INQUIRY TO DON MCHENRY.

3. FOURIE THEN WENT ON TO DESCRIBE SOME OF THE STEPS THAT JUDGE STEYN HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRICS OF REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION AND PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS. FOURIE SAID THAT OVER THE PAST WEEKEND THE STATE PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED MEASURES ABOLISHING THE MIXED MARRIAGES ACT, IMMORALITY ACT, AND A LIST OF ORDINANCES OF A SIMILAR NATURE DATING BACK TO 1943-54. HE WAS NOT SURE WHEN JUDGE STEYN WOULD PUBLISH THESE ACTIONS, BUT HE THOUGHT FAIRLY SOON.

4. THE NEXT MEASURES WHICH JUDGE STEYN HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE THE PASS LAWS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. FOURIE OBSERVED THAT THESE WOULD BE MODIFIED SO THAT ALL NAMIBIANS WOULD BE TREATED ALIKE.

5. JUDGE STEYN IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. HE HAS INITIATED AN IN-HOUSE ANALYSIS OF THE STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN IN MAKING UP THE VOTERS' ROLLS. I TOLD FOURIE THAT I WAS SURE THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL BEGINNING TO TAKE ACTION IN THE ELECTORAL FIELD WITHOUT HAVING THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN PLACE. FOURIE ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ASPECT BUT STRESSED THAT JUDGE CONFIDENTIAL

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STEYN WAS ENGAGING ONLY IN PREPARATORY STUDIES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO DECISION MAKING AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
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